1901MNRAS..61R.188.

19th of May 1900. He devoted himself chiefly to the study of science (especially meteorology) and art, spending some months of each year in London and travelling a great deal on the Continent; he visited most of the capitals of Europe and nearly all the principal cathedrals. When at home he devoted much time to microscopic studies and also worked a great deal with his telescopes, particularly one by Steinheil, $4\frac{2}{10}$ ins. diameter, with which he resolved many double stars, but no record of the results of his observations can be found. He collected an extensive and valuable library, which was particularly rich in illustrated works, and in books of reference on most subjects. He also had a number of engravings, art photographs, cameos, bronzes, &c. About thirty years ago he began giving away spectacles to the poor lace workers of the district, carefully testing their sight; this charity gradually extended to others who were in need until, when shortly before his death he was obliged by failing health to give up seeing any more applicants, he had given away more than 32,000 pairs. He was unmarried. He retained his faculties and his interest in scientific, artistic and general literature until a very short time before his death, which was sudden at last from heart failure.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on the 13th of January 1865.

At the beginning of 1900 there were four names in our list of Fellows with date of election prior to 1850—viz. James Glaisher (1841), Sir Josiah Rees (1844), C. Piazzi Smyth (1846), E. J. Lowe (1848). Of these we have to deplore the loss by death of the second, third, and fourth.

Sir JOSIAH REES was the son of the late Mr. J. Rees and was born in 1821. He was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1851 and was a revising barrister on the South Wales and Chester circuit from 1865 to 1877. In 1878 he was appointed Chief Justice of Bermuda, and he was also judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court of Bermuda and President of the Legislative Council. He was knighted in 1891. In 1876 he married Eliza, daughter of Mr. J. Acock, of Cheltenham; she died in 1887. The death of Sir Josiah Rees occurred in November 1899, but the news did not reach us until after the close of the year. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on the 10th of May 1844, being proposed by the late Admiral Smyth.

THOMAS GLAZEBROOK RYLANDS was born at Warrington on the 24th of May 1818, and died at his residence, Highfields, Thelwall, Cheshire, on the 14th of February 1900. He was a wire manufacturer, ironmaster, &c., but found time to develop an interest in many sciences—entomology, botany, geology, mineralogy, zoology, and, later, astronomy. He was a regular attendant at the meetings of the British Association. He did not publish any astronomical work, though for a number of

Downloaded from http://mnras.oxfordjournals.org/ at UCSF Library on April 6, 2015

© Royal Astronomical Society • Provided by the NASA Astrophysics Data System

1901MNRAS..61R.188.

years he constantly used his equatorial and transit. Several years before his death he vested these instruments in trustees for the benefit of the city of Liverpool; they were originally mounted at the Nautical Academy in Colquitt Street, and when the Corporation erected a Technical Institute they were transferred to suitable mountings on the roof of that building.

In 1893 Mr. Rylands published privately a handsome volume entitled *The Geography of Ptolemy Elucidated* (University Press, Dublin), in which by careful investigations he seeks to establish and demonstrate, by beautiful diagrams, a higher degree of accuracy in Ptolemy's writings than he had been previously credited with. A copy of the work is in the Library of the Society, presented by the author.

Mr. Rylands bequeathed to the University Library, Liverpool, a large number of books containing MSS. and early printed works, of which a Catalogue has just been printed at the Liverpool University Press. In the Preface to the Catalogue Principal Dale says :—"The collection is the most valuable that we have yet received in any single gift."

He was a good Greek and Latin scholar and an able mathematician, and possessed a fair knowledge of architecture, heraldry and ancient geography. He was a Justice of the Peace for Warrington and Mayor of Warrington 1858–59.

He was married twice, and leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on the 12th of January 1866.

The father of the late CHARLES PIAZZI SMYTH, the well-known Admiral Smyth, spent the early years of his married life on the Mediterranean Station. At Palermo he made the acquaintance of the venerable Italian astronomer, Giuseppe Piazzi. The Admiral and his wife (Annarella, daughter of T. Warington, Esq., of Naples), who is still remembered as "a lady of great ability and rare accomplishments," were so much interested in the studies of their distinguished friend that they named their second son, who was born at Naples on the 3rd of January 1819, Charles Piazzi Smyth. The celebrated astronomer acted as godfather, and at the christening expressed the desire that the child might become an astronomer. When the boy was about eleven years old his father, who had settled at Bedford, bought what was then considered a powerful telescope, and erected the well-known Bedford Observatory. One can easily imagine with what enthusiasm the Admiral pointed out the various constellations to his clever children and taught them the rudiments of astronomy, for, besides Charles, there were two sons and several daughters. The eldest son, Sir Warington Smyth, became Professor of Mineralogy at the Royal School of Mines. The third son is General Sir Henry Smyth. One of the daughters married Sir William Flower, late Director of the Natural

Downloaded from http://mnras.oxfordjournals.org/ at UCSF Library on April 6, 2015

© Royal Astronomical Society • Provided by the NASA Astrophysics Data System